

H. R. 181.

DECEMBER 28, 1820.

Read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole House
to-morrow.

A BILL

*Regulating the Payment of Debts due from the Purchasers of
the Public Lands.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 no lands purchased from the United States on or before the
4 first day of July last shall be considered as forfeited to the go-
5 vernment, for failure in completing the payment thereon, until
6 the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and
7 twenty-one; and, that all persons indebted to the government
8 for lands, shall be permitted, on or before the day aforesaid,
9 to surrender to the register of the land office of the district
10 in which their purchase or purchases have been made, by
11 half quarter sections or legal sub-divisions of fractional sec-
12 tions, any part of the quantity, which they may respectively
13 hold, and the sums which such persons may have paid on
14 the land so surrendered shall be carried to their credit on
15 the quantity retained; the quarter sections and fractions shall
16 be divided for the purpose of surrendering as by law is now

17 directed. No interest shall be charged against any person
 18 for moneys due and unpaid on any tract surrendered as afore-
 19 said, or on any tract retained and paid for, on or before the
 20 said thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and
 21 twenty-one; and, on complete payment being made for any
 22 tract, agreeably to the provisions of this act, a patent shall
 23 issue as in other cases.

1 **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That all persons in-
 2 debted to the government for lands, shall, on payment in cash
 3 of the whole purchase money for any tract, on or before the
 4 thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and twenty-
 5 one, be allowed a deduction of per cent. on the
 6 original price at which their lands were purchased, excluding
 7 interest, and computing the moneys already paid as part of
 8 the said purchase money.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That all persons in-
 2 debted to the government for lands, and who shall not, on or
 3 before the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred
 4 and twenty-one, have made payment therefor, shall be per-
 5 mitted to pay the sums by them respectively due, in
 6 equal annual instalments, without interest; the first
 7 of which shall be payable the day of and a
 8 failure to make payment of any of the aforesaid instalments, at
 9 the time they may become due, shall deprive the person so
 10 failing of all the benefits to be derived from this section.